Midwest Big Data Innovation Hub

Collaboration Cafe

November 2022

supported by NSF 1916613
Four Hubs, One Mission

What We Do
Engage communities, share resources, and build partnerships that harness data science to address societal and scientific challenges.
Priority Areas and Cross-cutting Themes

• Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
• Big Data in Health
• Digital Agriculture
• Smart & Resilient Communities
• Water Quality

• Data Science Education and Workforce Development
• Cyberinfrastructure and Data Sharing
Collaboration Cafe webinar series

Goals:
• Building regional capacity for large-scale proposal response
• Growing a cross-disciplinary network of data science collaborators
• Elevating early career researchers
• Creating a more diverse data science community by actively engaging with non-R1 institutions, including minority-serving institutions (MSIs), tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), and predominantly undergraduate institutions (PUIs)
• Partnering with industry, government, nonprofits, and civic organizations to support translational research and transition-to-practice activities

Regular segments:
• Funding opportunity walkthroughs
• Researcher lightning talks
• Lessons learned from prior awardees
• Speed networking
• Small group discussions
Collaboration Cafe resources

• MBDH website
  • Web page with upcoming sessions
  • Short form for engagement

• Slack community
  • Networking
  • Input on future sessions
  • New solicitations

• Shared Google Drive
  • Running notes doc
  • Relevant prior awards to Midwest institutions

• YouTube playlist of webinar recordings

Cafe Ground Rules

• Multi-disciplinary team science is a core focus here - all proposal ideas are welcome for discussion

• Research proposals are competitive; some people may not be willing to discuss the details of their projects in this venue

• Private conversations in breakout rooms or Slack private messages are private

• Participating in Collaboration Cafe activities falls under our NSF Code of Conduct
MBDH engagement on proposals

There are multiple opportunities to have MBDH participate on proposals for CyberTraining, or other projects:

- **Engagement partner:** Communications, outreach, community assessments, participation in Hub events and activities
  - Non-exclusive Letter of Collaboration
  - Minimal to no funding

- **Collaborative partner:** Engagement roles + involvement in developing and managing project activities
  - Non-exclusive Letter of Collaboration, subaward, co-PI roles, etc.
  - Funding to recover costs of staff time and other expenses

- **Note:** The MBDH is a neutral party and often provides non-exclusive Letters of Collaboration to multiple proposers to a solicitation
FFAR Fellows program goals and timeline

• Develop leadership competencies
• Develop connections across disciplinary boundaries and beyond the home institution
• Broaden career opportunities, including with industry, government, and NGOs

• Three-year period involving cohort activities, mentoring, and individual professional development

Applications due:
• Stipend + Professional Development Category - February 22, 2023
• Professional Development Category - April 15, 2023
• Notification of award by March 15 (S+PD) and May 9 (PD)
FFAR Fellows types and Challenge Areas

• Stipend + Professional Development Fellow
  • Includes $49,500 each year to cover tuition, fees, stipend, and related costs
• Professional Development Fellow
  • Does not include a stipend, but six application-based scholarships are available

FFAR’s six Challenge Areas:

• Soil Health
• Sustainable Water Management
• Next Generation Crops
• Advanced Animal Systems
• Urban Food Systems
• Health-Agriculture Nexus

[foundationfar.org/what-we-do/]
FFAR Fellows program eligibility

• Open to graduate students at universities in the U.S. and Canada
• Completion of a MS degree or one year of a PhD program by June 2023
• Acceptance in a PhD program by May 1, 2023
• Three years remaining in the degree program (Fall 2023 to Spring 2026)
• A confirmed PhD faculty advisor
• Other requirements around financial sponsorship, TOEFL scores, visa type, and availability to participate in the cohort activities
FFAR Fellows program review process

• “The applicant’s research topic must address one or more of the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research’s Six Challenge Areas, and the student must meet all eligibility requirements.

• Applications are considered by a selection committee comprised of the following:
  • Scientists and business professionals from companies in the fields of agriculture and the life sciences
  • Research and academic administrators from university programs in agriculture and the life sciences
  • Program officers from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research

• Applications are judged primarily on the quality of the student and the student’s potential to benefit from and contribute to a peer cohort of future leaders in food and agriculture.

• Finalists may be invited to an online interview with members of the selection committee.”
Discussion

• How has being a FFAR Fellow impacted your:
  • Research?
  • Personal network?
  • Professional development?

• What would you recommend to a colleague who is interested in applying to be a Fellow?
Get involved

• [https://midwestbigdatahub.org/cafe](https://midwestbigdatahub.org/cafe)
• info@midwestbigdatahub.org

**January 18, 2023**
3:00–4:00 p.m. CT / 4:00–5:00 p.m. ET
• **Topic:** Support for Mid-Career Researchers
• **Solicitation:** NSF Mid-Career Advancement (MCA)

**February 15, 2023**
3:00–4:00 p.m. CT / 4:00–5:00 p.m. ET
• **Topic:** Data Science Education and Workforce Development in Genomics
• **Solicitation:** NIH Research Experience in Genomic Research for Data Scientists